

## ANA, U.S. make a successful MEDCAP



An Afghan National Army soldier gives a de-worming pill to a child at the Sunday MEDCAP at Tangy Kalay.

Story and photos by  
Spc. Steven Marroni  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**TANGY KALAY**, Afghanistan — A line of children filed through the tent flaps. Shy and standoffish when she saw tall, bearded soldiers, one little girl crept up to them.

The soldier greeted her with a smile. He knelt, at her level, and spoke to her. He handed her a tub with hygiene items. He gave her a de-worming pill.

As she moved on to the next medical station, the next child in line looked less apprehensive as she approached the smiling ANA soldier.

About 600 villagers from Tangy Kalay and the surrounding area gathered Sunday for another Medical Civil Assistance Pro

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## NBC escort unit keeps servicemembers safe

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — When thinking of force protection, most people think of the infantry, but they are not the only ones who provide protection.

“Through our detection and identification of certain potentially harmful substances, we provide some assistance in force protection for military and coalition members from NBC and similar threats,” said Capt. Christopher Hoffman, team leader, Technical Escort Unit, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The Technical Escort Team samples and packages substances to conform to transportation requirements, performs presumptive

analysis to identify items and escorts chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials.

“If a suspicious item is found at a location, we package it appropriately for transportation, then it is analyzed at some level for identification, then it may need further escort to the United States or another lab for complete analysis,” said Hoffman.

“A suspicious item is anything that could potentially be used against U.S. or coalition forces,” he added.

The Technical Escort Team is a detachment-size element comprised of civilian and military personnel.

“The civilians are completely integrated into the team, it is seamless



Photo courtesy of the Technical Escort Unit

Soldiers from the Technical Escort Unit, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., practice decontamination during training.

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## U.S. says it might accept changes to Iraq resolution

**WASHINGTON** — With announcements Monday from Russia and France that they would veto a proposed U.N. Security Council resolution that could express international support for a war against Iraq, the White House said it might accept further changes before presenting the resolution for a vote.

It may be willing to push back by a few days the March 17 deadline for Iraq to prove its disarmament, sources told CNN.

"It is too soon to say what the final document that will be voted on will include," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "The bottom line remains the same — it must lead to the immediate disarmament of [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein."

The draft resolution, presented by the United States, Britain and Spain, is expected to face a vote this week. Diplomats said Monday that a vote Tuesday, as was originally expected, is "unlikely."

The resolution calls for Iraq to prove its

disarmament or face the "serious consequences" threatened by Resolution 1441, which the council passed unanimously in November. The March 17 deadline was added last week in hopes that it would win support.

French President Jacques Chirac told a television interviewer Monday that he would vote against the resolution, but added that his country's veto might not be necessary because he doesn't think the proposal will win the required approval of at least nine of the 15 council members.

## United States lets personnel leave Oman, UAE

**WASHINGTON** — With possible war with Iraq looming, the State Department authorized the voluntary departure Monday of nonessential U.S. government employees and families of U.S. personnel at embassies and consulates in Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The State Department also advised

Americans not to travel to either place and told Americans still there to "consider departing." The travel warning cited "heightened tensions and increased security concerns resulting from the current situation in the region."

State Department officials have said that as the possibility of war with Iraq increases, the United States would likely allow its personnel in the Middle East to leave the region if the security situation in their host countries became unstable.

Teams of U.S. officials at embassies and consulates around the region have been meeting periodically to assess their security posture, and meeting with host governments about the possible need for increased security at U.S. facilities.

## Al-Qaida chiefs 'met in December'

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** — The alleged operational mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, met with Osama bin Laden in December, Pakistani intelligence officials say.

But they say they still do not know where al-Qaida mastermind Osama bin Laden is. And that despite last week's reports of searches for him along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, they have no hot leads and officials are no closer to finding him.

On Monday officials showed an eight minute video tape of the early morning raid that captured Shaikh Mohammed. They said that he is answering interrogators' questions.

The briefing took place at Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan's intelligence agency. Pakistan intelligence officials rarely, if ever, hold press briefings, CNN's Tom Mintier said.

Officials held the briefing in part to let the world know that the March 1 capture outside Islamabad of one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists was a Pakistan-led raid that U.S. officials only helped with.

The United States provided some electronic surveillance, but the human intelligence and the raid itself was carried out by Pakistan, officials said.

"There was a clear indication that Pakistan officials were unhappy that news of the arrest came from United States," said Mintier.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston

## Keep on Trackin'

*Air Force Staff Sgt. Chanel Higgins, noncommissioned officer in charge of functional systems and information management, 416<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group, reviews decorations being processed at Camp Stronghold Freedom at Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan Saturday. Higgins said she tracks about 200 awards and decorations a month at this Army outpost. Higgins is normally assigned to the 27<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.*

# Gym fanatics persuade MWR to expand

Story and photo by  
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
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**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – Due to the limited perimeter of Bagram Air Base, soldiers have no choice but to run up and down Disney Drive. Because of high-risk areas that may include minefields and hostile activity, a servicemember must take their weapon outside the designated safe area. This can be bothersome for a soldier who is used to running without the worries of exhaust, mines and other hostilities.

So when soldiers choose not to fight the exhaust, they take their workout to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation gym.

About 500 people come to the usually overcrowded gym every day, said an MWR em-



*Brothers Spcs. Rey A. Acevedo, 319<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment and Rey D. Acevedo, 82<sup>nd</sup> Aviation, both of Fort Bragg, N.C. said working out at the gym has become their hobby while deployed here. It occupies their minds preventing depression, they added.*

ployee here.

“What else are you going to do?” asked Korean Lt. Col.

Soomoon Chae, senior liaison officer, Combined Joint Task Force-180, who says he works out at the gym seven days a week.

The marathon runner from the Korean Army said when he gets finished with work around 1130Z; he takes an eight-mile run then goes straight to the gym.

“I enjoy it,” he said.

Two brothers deployed here, say they enjoy going to the gym as well. Spc. Rey D. Acevedo, 82<sup>nd</sup> Aviation and Spc. Rey A. Acevedo, 319<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, both from Fort Bragg, N.C. visit the gym six days a week, leaving Sunday as their only rest day.

The two run in the mornings and go to the gym together for one to two hours every night.

They said that if they were home they would not be this fa-

natic about going to the gym this often, but it occupies their minds and makes the time pass by during their six-month long deployment.

Due to the popularity of the gym, two clamshells are being built – one for an indoor gym with an indoor basketball court and another for Nautilus fitness machines, said Arthur M. Chandler, MWR coordinator here.

The current gym will be turned in to a game room. This all should be finished in two to three months, added Chandler.

Starting Friday, soldiers can take Marine and Korean martial arts and aerobics classes at the old South Dining Facility in Viper City.

With so many soldiers trying to maintain physical fitness overseas, MWR is working to preserve their well being.



Photo courtesy of the Technical Escort Unit

*Soldiers from the Technical Escort Unit, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., practice sampling during training.*

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as to who is military and who is civilian on the team,” said Hoffman.

“The civilians have certain expertise and experience that we in the military don’t have because many of them have been doing this job for a much longer period of time than any of our military personnel,” he added.

The civilians work in the states to clean up old chemical munitions burials which is similar to some of the missions here.

According to Hoffman, the military members of the team will go to the civilian member for advice because of their expertise.

The team’s mission is similar to their mission in the United States, but the unit is different from other similar units.

“We are different from most chemical units in that we can perform all our corps tasks with a light element,” said Hoffman.

The team is not only distinct as a chemical unit, they also differ from all other units.

“We are unique because we are the only DOD (Department of Defense) asset that can transport certain hazardous classifications on military aircraft,” said Hoffman.

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gram to visit a doctor. Special Forces, medical task forces, psychological operations, civil affairs and a slew of military, civilian and nongovernmental organizations hold these events periodically for villagers who would otherwise not be able to afford medical assistance.

This MEDCAP was different, however. The Afghan National Army provided much of the security.

"We're working with the Afghan military to give the appearance that this is their mission," said Maj. Robert, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces, event organizer. "This is an ANA event."

ANA soldiers guarded roads entering the area and patrolled the village. They had a wide presence, standing in green, camouflage uniforms with slung AK-47s.

He pointed out having the locals see their new army in action will boost its popularity and support, and also show the new soldiers that their job has a civil and security end to it besides fighting and presence patrols.

ANA soldiers also helped villagers fill out medical-evaluation forms, passed out medication and toothbrushes and gave them a run down on the basics of preventative medicine — such as hand washing and basic personal hygiene. Afghan doctors also assisted American doctors.

Children's illnesses were most common at the MEDCAP. Most came in with bad cases of diarrhea and worms. Some patients with chronic conditions returned with evaluation forms from previous MEDCAPs.

Tangy Kalay village leaders helped keep the process orderly by lining up villagers, forming small groups, filing them through the triage tent, and then directing the patients to other stations.

One tent was established just for women.

Besides the U.S. and Afghan military, several nongovernmental organizations brought donations to the site.

"This is what (the ANA) has to do for security and acceptance," said another organizer, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dave. "Their presence is necessary for the security of a growing government."

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Jeremiah Johnson." A mountain man who wishes to live the life of a hermit becomes the unwilling object of a long vendetta by Indians when he proves to be the match of their warriors in one-to-one combat on the early frontier.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Pearl Harbor."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Mostly clear H: 61F L: 25F	Mostly cloudy H: 54F L: 30F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Mostly clear H: 66F L: 39F	Dusty H: 64F L: 43F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Mostly clear H: 61F L: 27F	Partly cloudy H: 55F L: 30F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Partly cloudy H: 48F L: 34F	Partly cloudy H: 55F L: 35F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

## Allegations lead to Harrick's suspension

**ESPN** — Georgia suspended coach Jim Harrick with pay and withdrew from the SEC and NCAA tournaments Monday after an internal investigation showed three players took a phony class taught by his son.

University president Michael Adams said Monday it isn't clear whether Harrick eventually will be fired. However, sources told ESPN.com's Andy Katz that Harrick Sr. expects to be fired, but that it won't happen until the investigation is complete.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution had reported earlier Monday that Harrick was dismissed.

The decisions were made after Georgia's findings of academic fraud involving a number of players who were in a physical education class at the university.

"The evidence and the findings presented to us indicated there was academic fraud," athletic director Vince Dooley said. "There's no evidence at all that Coach Harrick knew about what took place."

The Journal-Constitution reported that star forward Jarvis Hayes, a junior and the SEC's second-leading scorer this season, will an-



*Jim Harrick isn't coaching and the Bulldogs won't be dancing.*

nounce Tuesday that he isn't returning for his senior season and will enter the NBA draft. His twin brother, Jonas, said he is graduating in August and might not return to the team next season, either.

Tony Cole — kicked off the Bulldogs last year — accused Harrick and his son, an assistant coach, of breaking NCAA rules. Cole said Jim Harrick Jr. paid his bills, did schoolwork and taught a sham class on coaching. Harrick Jr. was fired Wednesday.

The allegations at Georgia emerged Feb. 27, in an interview of Cole by ESPN.

## NCAA Division 1: ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll



Team	Record
1. Arizona	25-2
2. Kentucky	26-3
3. Texas	22-5
4. Kansas	24-6
5. Pittsburgh	23-4
6. Oklahoma	21-6
7. Florida	24-6
8. Marquette	23-4
9. Wake Forest	23-4
10. Xavier	24-4
11. Syracuse	23-4
12. Duke	21-6

Team	Record
13. Illinois	21-6
14. Stanford	23-7
15. Maryland	19-8
16. Louisville	21-6
17. Creighton	28-4
18. Wisconsin	22-6
19. Notre Dame	22-8
20. Oklahoma State	21-8
21. Dayton	21-5
22. Georgia	19-8
23. California	20-7
24. Memphis	22-5
25. Mississippi St.	19-8



## Bluejays snag automatic bid

**ST. LOUIS** — Creighton got 20 points from Larry House and took advantage of poor shooting by top-seeded Southern Illinois to romp to the Missouri Valley Conference tournament championship with an 80-56 victory on Monday night.

The 19<sup>th</sup>-ranked Bluejays (29-4) were the second seed in the tournament after losing 70-62 March 1 at Southern Illinois (24-6), the regular-season champion the last two years. Creighton struggled in its first two tournament games, a pair of one-point victories over Indiana State and Wichita State, but put it all together to win the tournament championship for the fourth time in five seasons.

Meanwhile, it all fell apart for Southern Illinois. The Salukis missed 17 of their first 18 shots, hitting just 15.6 percent in the first half and fell behind by 26 points. Creighton had leads of 10-0, 22-4 and 42-14 in the half and was ahead by as many as 33 points at 57-24 in the second half.

Despite the lopsided finale, both teams likely are headed to the NCAA tournament. Creighton gets the conference's automatic bid for its fifth straight trip, and Southern Illinois was ranked 37th in the RPI.

The Salukis scored fewer than 20 points in the first half for only the second time all season. The other time was also at the Savvis Center, when they had 13 at halftime of a 70-61 loss to Saint Louis

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on Dec. 28. Their worst loss previously most was by 13 points at Charlotte on Dec. 18.

Kent Williams, who leads Southern Illinois with 15-point average, was 1-for-7 in the half and finished with 13 points on 3-for-11 shooting. Jermaine Dearman, who had 43 points in the first two tournament games, had only four at the half and finished 4-for-12 with eight points and 10 rebounds. Darren Brooks was 6-for-7 in the second half and had 15 points, but missed all four shots in the first half.

Creighton didn't need a big game from Kyle Korver, the conference player of the year and tournament MVP each of the last two years. Korver was content to distribute the ball in the first half with four points on 1-for-3 shooting. He finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and two steals.

Creighton also beat Southern Illinois in the tournament final last season, 84-76, in a much more competitive game.

## Seahawks are back in Dance

**RICHMOND, Va.** — Brett Blizzard bid the Colonial Athletic Association tournament farewell Monday night with one more of his vintage performances that league coaches have come to know — and dread.

Blizzard scored 13 of his 20 points in the second half and hit three big 3-pointers as North Carolina-Wilmington beat Drexel 70-62 in the CAA championship, earning the Seahawks a return to the NCAA tournament.

"I feel like my role on the team sometimes is when we're in a tight situation to come up with a shot and make something happen," Blizzard said. "I try to have confidence in myself to make the shot and I think them having confidence in me to take it is what helps me even more."

The Seahawks had let a 14-point lead in the second half shrink to 53-48 with 12:32 left when both teams went cold, going nearly 3 1/2 minutes without a point. Then Blizzard hit two 3-pointers, the second from way out with the shot clock winding down, to rebuild the Seahawks' lead to 11.

"He really killed us," Drexel's Robert Battle said.

Craig Callahan, who also hit a big 3-pointer as part of a late 9-0 run, said the team has no question about Blizzard's role in a pinch.

"When it gets tight, it's time to get him the ball," he said.

The Seahawks (24-6) advanced to the NAAs for the second consecutive season and the third time in four years. Last year, they stunned No. 4 seed Southern California 93-89 in overtime in the first round.

Wilmington also did it in Brad Brownell's first year as coach. He was elevated when Jerry Wainwright left for Richmond after last season.

Brownell deflected the credit to his players.

"When (Drexel) made a great run, which we knew they would, ... our kids had enough poise and I had enough sense to get

Brett the ball," he said.

## Knight says he didn't earn pay

**LUBBOCK, Texas** — Bob Knight told Texas Tech he wouldn't accept his \$250,000 coaching salary this year because his team failed to live up to his expectations — and so did he.

"He has standards," Texas Tech men's basketball spokesman Randy Farley said Monday. "He just didn't meet his standards, and so he said, 'I don't think I should be paid for that.'"

Tech (16-11, 6-10 Big 12) is the No. 7 seed in the Big 12 conference tournament in Dallas and plays Baylor on Thursday night.

"I'm just not at all satisfied with what transpired with our team in terms of our fundamental execution," Knight told The Dallas Morning News for its online edition. "I don't think it's anybody's fault but mine.

"You heard me talk after games all season long about missed opportunities and how we didn't see things. Those are things that have got to be taught. Learning those things is just as much a responsibility of the teacher as the ones learning those things," he was quoted as saying.

Last season, Knight led the team to a 23-9 record and to the NCAA tournament. Before his arrival in March 2001, Tech hadn't had a winning season in four years.

This year could be Knight's first without 20 wins since 1995, when Indiana went 19-12.

Tech will probably need to win the conference tournament to make the NCAA field for the second straight year. Knight has said his team would accept an NIT bid if offered.

In his 29 years at Indiana, Knight won three NCAA national championships and had just seven seasons in which his teams failed to win 20 games.

***"What are you complaining about? This is just like an all-inclusive vacation. You're at the beach and all of your meals are paid for."***



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support